

In re Application of:

Shapiro et al.

Application No.: 09/993,291

Filed: November 13, 2001

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Atty Docket No.: CIT1440-1

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings show changes to figures 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 18. These replacement sheets replace the original sheets filed with the application. In each of the sheets, the shaded background has been removed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12-27.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were pending prior to this Response. By the present communication, claims 1-29 have been canceled, claims 33-39 have been added, and claims 30-32 have been amended to define Applicants' invention with greater particularity. Support for the amended claim language may be found in the specification at, among others, paragraphs 0027, 0127 and 0187. The amendments do not raise any issues of new matter and the amended claims do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search. Accordingly, claims 30-39 are currently pending in this application.

Objections to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to figures 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 18, as submitted on November 13, 2001. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the shadings in those figures make viewing the underlying information difficult, and the symbols in Figure 13 are not clear. However, in order to minimize the issues and further prosecution, Applicants have amended figures 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 18 as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of paragraphs [0007], [0014], [0054], [0059], [0067] and [0082] in the specification for the various informalities listed in the Office Action. However, in order to minimize the issues and further prosecution, Applicants have amended paragraphs [0007], [0014], [0054], [0059], [0067] and [0082] as suggested by the Examiner, and request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of claim 31 for the informalities listed in the Office Action. However, in order to minimize the issues and further prosecution, Applicants

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have amended claim 31 as suggested by the Examiner, and request that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have canceled claims 24-27, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,969, hereinafter "Stoughton") in view of Schaff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,141, hereinafter "Schaff") and further in view of Grass et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0035459, hereinafter "Grass"). Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4-6, 15, 16 and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and further in view of Grass and Thalhammer-Reyero (U.S. Patent No. 5, 980, 096, hereinafter "Thalhammer-Reyero"). Applicants have canceled claims 4-6, 15, 16 and 18-26, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of Rzhetsky et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0049542, hereinafter "Rzhetsky"). Applicants have canceled claim 8, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of Agrafiotis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,490, hereinafter "Agrafiotis"). Applicants have canceled claim 10, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of McAdams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,914,891, hereinafter "McAdams"). Applicants have canceled claim 12, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 17 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of Thalhammer-Reyero and Nicolaou et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,904,423, hereinafter "Nicolaou"). Applicants have canceled claims 17 and 27, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of Thalhammer-Reyero and Nicolaou and Frandsen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,761, hereinafter "Frandsen"). Applicants have canceled claims 28 and 29, rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Stoughton in view of Schaff and Grass and further in view of Thalhammer-Reyero, Nicolaou, Frandsen, and Kant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,276, hereinafter "Kant"). Applicants have amended claim 32 to depend from claim 30, which the Examiner

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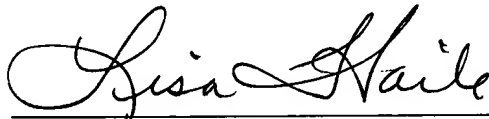
indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 32 now depends from an allowable claim, and should therefore be allowable itself. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved. Enclosed is check No. 580061 for two (2) month extension of time fee. However, The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees associated with the filing submitted herewith, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 6, 2005



Lisa A. Haile, J.D., Ph.D.

Registration No. 38,347

Telephone: (858) 677-1456

Facsimile: (858) 677-1465

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP
4365 Executive Drive, Suite 1100
San Diego, California 92121-2133
USPTO Customer No. 28213